

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A personalized audio system, comprising:
 - a user interface that enables a user of the personalized audio system to specify a profile for a personalized audio channel;
 - a sound recording library comprising a plurality of sound recordings;
 - a playlist generator that (a) selects one or more sound recording identifiers from a set of sound recording identifiers, wherein each of the selected one or more sound recording identifiers identifies a sound recording that matches the profile and that is stored in the library, and that (b) creates a playlist that lists the selected one or more sound recording identifiers in a particular order; and
 - a sound recording reproducing device for reproducing each of the identified sound recordings according to the particular order in which the selected one or more sound recording identifiers are listed in the playlist so that the user can listen to the sound recordings, wherein
 - for each sound recording identifier included in the playlist, the personalized audio system does not provide the user with a way to determine the selected one or more sound recording identifiers prior to the reproducing means reproducing the identified sound recordings information about the artist(s) who created the sound recording identified by the identifier until (a) such time as the sound recording is played by the audio system or (b) a point in time immediately prior to the playing of the sound recording by the audio system,
 - and
 - the personalized audio system does not provide the user with a way to directly control which sound recording identifiers in the set are selected by the playlist generator to be included in the group of selected one or more sound recording identifiers.

2. (Original) The audio system of claim 1, comprising a server and a consumer device, wherein the consumer device comprises the user interface and a storage device for storing the sound recording library, and the server comprises the playlist generator.

3. (Original) The audio system of claim 2, wherein the server further comprises a transmitter for transmitting the playlist to the consumer device after the playlist generator creates the playlist, and the consumer device further comprises a receiver for receiving the playlist transmitted from the server.

4. (Original) The audio system of claim 3, wherein the consumer device further comprises a processing unit that stores the playlist in the storage device after the playlist is received by the receiver.

5. (Original) The audio system of claim 4, wherein the processing unit encrypts the playlist stored in the storage device so that the user can not determine the contents of the playlist.

6-13. Cancelled

14. (Currently Amended) In a personalized audio system having a consumer device, wherein the consumer device has a user interface for receiving input from a user of the device, a method for providing a personalized audio channel, comprising the steps of:

receiving through the user interface input from the user, wherein the input comprises audio channel profile information;

associating the profile information with an audio channel;

receiving an indication from the user that the user desires to listen to the audio channel;

selecting a set of sound recordings based on the profile information and based on a statute, regulation, and/or contract in response to receiving the indication from the user,

wherein the audio channel profile information does not specify that any one or more particular songs should be selected; and

reproducing each selected sound recording for the user to hear, wherein the selected set of sound recordings are selected in a particular order and are reproduced in the particular order in which they are selected.

15. Cancelled

16. (Currently Amended) In a personalized audio system having a consumer device, wherein the consumer device has a user interface for receiving input from a user and a storage device for storing a sound recording library comprising a plurality of sound recordings, a method for providing a personalized audio channel, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving through the user interface input from the user, wherein the input indicates that the user desires to listen to a selected personalized audio channel, the selected personalized audio channel having a profile created or modified by the user of the consumer device, the profile specifying one or more genres or styles of music;

selecting a sound recording based on the profile of the selected personalized audio channel;

determining whether the selected sound recording is stored in the sound recording library;

retrieving the sound recording from the sound recording library if a determination is made that the sound recording is stored in the sound recording library;

retrieving the sound recording from a server that is remote from the consumer device if a determination is made that the sound recording is not stored in the sound recording library; and

playing the sound recording for the user, wherein the steps of selecting the sound recording and determining whether the selected sound recording is stored in the sound recording library occur after receiving said input that indicates the user desires to listen to the selected personalized audio channel.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of adding the sound recording to the sound recording library after retrieving the sound recording from the server when a determination is made that the sound recording is not stored in the sound recording library.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of encrypting the sound recording before adding it to the sound recording library.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of selecting a sound recording based on the profile of the selected personalized audio channel, further comprises the step of selecting a sound recording from a playlist, wherein the playlist matches the profile.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the playlist is stored on the storage device.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the sound recording library has an associated library catalogue that identifies each sound recording that is in the library.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the associated library catalogue further identifies whether or not a sound recording included in the library is owned by a user of the personalized audio system, wherein at least one of the sound recordings included in the library is not owned by the user and at least one of the sounds recordings included in the library is owned by the user.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of creating a playlist based on the profile, wherein the playlist comprises a list of sound recordings.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of selecting a sound recording comprises the step of selecting a sound recording from the playlist.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein, while performing the step of playing the selected sound recording, the method further comprises the steps of:

selecting a second sound recording based on the profile;

determining whether the second sound recording is stored in the sound recording library;

retrieving the second sound recording from the sound recording library if a determination is made that the sound recording is stored in the sound recording library;

retrieving the second sound recording from a server and selecting from the playlist a third sound recording, wherein the third sound recording is stored in the sound recording library, if a determination is made that the second sound recording is not stored in the sound recording library;

determining whether the second sound recording is ready to be played at or about the time when the first sound recording is finished being played;

playing the second sound recording if it is determined that the second sound recording is ready to be played at or about the time when the first sound recording is finished being played; and

playing the third sound recording if it is determined that the second sound recording is not ready to be played at or about the time when the first sound recording is finished being played.

26. Cancelled.

27. (Currently Amended) A personalized audio system, comprising:

a user interface for receiving input from a user of the system;

a storage device storing a sound recording library;

receiving means for receiving through the user interface input from the user, wherein the input indicates that the user desires to listen to a selected personalized audio channel, the selected personalized audio channel having a profile created or modified by a user of the consumer device;

selection means for selecting a sound recording based on the profile of the selected personalized audio channel, wherein said selection means is configured to select the sound recording after and in response to the receiving means receiving said input;

determining means for determining whether the selected sound recording is stored in the sound recording library on the storage device, wherein said determining means is configured to determine whether the selected sound recording is stored in the sound recording library after said selection means selects the sound recording;

retrieving means for retrieving the sound recording from the sound recording library if a determination is made that the sound recording is stored in the sound recording library;

retrieving means for retrieving the sound recording from a server if a determination is made that the sound recording is not stored in the sound recording library; and

playing means for playing the sound recording for the user.

28. (Currently Amended) In a personalized audio system having a consumer device, wherein the consumer device has a user interface for receiving input from a user of the device, a processor, and a storage device storing a sound recording library, an article of manufacture for providing a personalized audio channel, the article of manufacture comprising:

at least one processor readable carrier; and

instructions carried on the at least one carrier;

wherein the instructions are configured to be readable from the at least one carrier by the processor and thereby cause the processor to operate so as to:

a) receive through the user interface input from the user, wherein the input indicates that the user desires to listen to a selected personalized audio channel, the selected personalized audio channel having a profile created or modified by a user of the consumer device;

- b) select a sound recording based on the profile of the selected personalized audio channel;
- c) determine whether the sound recording is stored in the sound recording library on the storage device;
- d) retrieve the sound recording from the sound recording library if a determination is made that the sound recording is stored in the sound recording library;
- e) retrieve the sound recording from a server if a determination is made that the sound recording is not stored in the sound recording library; and
- f) play the sound recording for the user, wherein
the steps of selecting the sound recording and determining whether the selected sound recording is stored in the sound recording library occur after the processor receives the input that indicates the user desires to listen to the selected personalized audio channel.

29. Cancelled.

30. (New) The audio system of claim 1, wherein the profile contains information pertaining to the user's music preferences, said preference information consisting of one or more music genre identifiers, each of which identifies a genre of music for which the user has a preference.

31. (New) The audio system of claim 1, wherein the sound recordings are selected and played for the user in such a manner that use of the audio system by the user falls within a statutory compulsory license provision.

32. (New) The audio system of claim 1, further comprising a second user interface that is displayed to the user when the sound recording reproducing device reproduces a sound recording from the playlist, wherein the second user interface includes means for enabling the user to indicate that the user desires to purchase a copy of the sound recording.

33. (New) The audio system of claim 32, wherein said enabling means comprises a selectable element displayed on a display device.

34. (New) The method of claim 14, while reproducing a sound recording for the user to hear, the method further comprises the step of enabling the user to indicate that the user desires to purchase a copy of said sound recording.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of enabling the user to indicate that the user desires to purchase a copy of said sound recording comprises displaying as part of a graphical user interface a user selectable element.

36. (New) The method of claim 16, while playing the sound recording for the user, the method further comprises the step of enabling the user to indicate that the user desires to purchase a copy of said sound recording.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of enabling the user to indicate that the user desires to purchase a copy of said sound recording comprises displaying as part of a graphical user interface a user selectable element.

38. (New) The personalized audio system of claim 27, further comprising a second user interface that is displayed to the user when the playing means plays the sound recording for the user, wherein the second user interface includes means for enabling the user to indicate that the user desires to purchase a copy of the sound recording.

39. (New) The personalized audio system of claim 38, wherein said enabling means comprises a selectable element displayed on a display device.

40. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein when the processor plays the sound recording for the user the processor is also configured to enable the user to indicate to the processor that the user desires to purchase a copy of said sound recording.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the processor enables the user to indicate that the user desires to purchase a copy of said sound recording by displaying as part of a graphical user interface a user selectable element.